

RED FLAG

Premier exercise becomes more realistic by adding Information Operations threat

By Capt. Becky M. Beers

Air Force Information Warfare Center, Det. 2

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — A cultural shift is beginning here thanks to the men and women assigned to the U.S. Air Force Warfare Center and the Air Force Information Warfare Center.

The centers are transforming current threat-focused exercises into a true coordinated air, space and Information Operations threat environment. The goal is to provide the combat Air Force with a realistic training environment that includes an operational, realistic Opposing Force.

In the past, air aggressors, also known as red forces, have simulated an air-to-air threat by functioning primarily as adversaries for friendly, or blue force, par-

ticipants. The new concept moves from a “bombs-on-target, shoot-them-out-of-the-sky” mentality to a credible, accurate, air, space and IO campaign executed at all levels of the conflict.

AFIWC's Det. 2, which is part of the 318th Information Operations Group, will begin with the development of an IO OPFOR capability.

The primary focus for Det. 2 is to have IO integrated and exercised within air and space training operations. They coordinated with the 57th Adversary Tactics Group to integrate this IO OPFOR capability. This ensures all red forces share common tactics and objectives.

Opposing forces will actively pursue red objectives and respond to blue force actions during exercises. The aggressors will simulate a true OPFOR against which U.S. and coalition Airmen can train. The 414th Combat Training Squadron, which is charged with hosting semi-annual Red Flag exercises, will be a key partner in integrating IO.

Each unit involved in the development of this new IO initiative is committed to providing the warfighter with the most dynamic and realistic training possible. The success of this initiative will constitute a training environment evolution and produce a realistic, representative thinking adversary. **The final result will be an effective, multi-discipline enemy OPFOR, representing current and future U.S. adversaries.**



Tech. Sgt. Kevin J. Gruenwald / 99th CS